



September 16, 2009

The Honorable Phil Andrews  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Andrews: *PHC*

The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg have finalized the City's position on the transit and highway components of the I270/US15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study, and would request that the County Council carefully consider our views when it develops its formal position.

The City has strongly advocated for light rail as the preferred mode for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) for many years but we understand that based on the current Cost Effective Ratio of the project, light rail would not qualify for federal transit funding. Therefore, given that costs associated with light rail inhibit the competitiveness of the project for Federal funding, the City is supportive of a bus rapid transit (BRT) mode. Should there be a change in the applicable formulas, available federal resources, or data relied upon (such as ridership, planned densities, etc.), the City would support light rail as the most desirable and efficient mode for the CCT.

The City is very supportive of the alternative alignments that would serve both the Crown Farm and Kentlands. If the CCT mode is BRT, the City strongly opposes locating the operations and maintenance facility at Site 6 on Metropolitan Grove Road.

With respect to highway improvements, the City supports Alternative 7 with two restricted lanes in each direction between Sam Eig Highway and MD-85; however, the City would strongly prefer High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes rather than Express Toll Lanes (ETL). We firmly believe that this alternative would provide significant congestion relief by retaining incentives to carpool while still providing a funding source to support construction. However, because the Alternative 7 restricted lanes would be barrier-separated, we urge you to support designs that do not isolate the City but rather establish sufficient connectivity between the restricted lanes and entrance/exit points within the City.

Recognizing that Alternative 7 will cause some displacement, the City requests that the State Highway Administration work closely with affected homeowners, communities, and businesses to minimize impacts and ensure that the remaining communities are sustainable. Additionally, the State should offer to purchase impacted properties as soon as possible rather than waiting for actual construction.

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2098  
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • TTY 301-258-6430 • cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov • www.gaithersburgmd.gov

MAYOR  
Sidney A. Katz

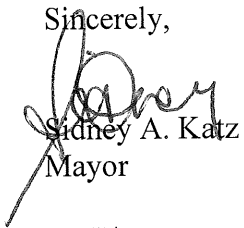
COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Jud Ashman  
Cathy C. Drzyzgula  
Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.  
Michael A. Sesma  
Ryan Spiegel

CITY MANAGER  
Angel L. Jones

The Honorable Phil Andrews  
September 16, 2009  
Page 2

Your consideration of the City's views would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me or Assistant City Manager Fred Felton at 301-258-6310 if you or your staff should have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sidney A. Katz  
Mayor

SAK/ms

Enclosure

cc: County Council  
City Council  
Angel L. Jones, City Manager  
Frederick J. Felton, Assistant City Manager